

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Esq.

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I have no doubt but what Ray was part of a conspiracy. Unfortunately, I have no or very little specific information which would prove this point. My conviction--and it is a conviction and not a mere suspicion--is based on a very careful observation of Bureau methods throughout the sixties. In both the John Kennedy and Martin Luther King murders the investigations were handled in such a way as to avoid getting the Bureau involved in any penetrative investigation of conspiracy possibilities. This was a result more of the methodology that had developed because of the political orientation of the Bureau than through any directed procedures.

Each piece of information in connection with an investigation such as King or Kennedy was handled in such a way as to protect the Bureau's image by coming up with a palatable answer and getting out of the matter as soon as possible. Lead information was edited by old-time, highly professional Bureau people who were adept at getting the material out in such a way that it would indicate that no further lead information was available, thus cutting off the possibility of finding conspiracies.

The orientation of about 99% of the old-time agents was such that this process went on without anyone even realizing that it was happening, rather than from some sinister scheme being put together as the cases developed.

It would take many hours to explain just how the system functioned to produce this result and it is the type of information that would be very difficult to get before a Judge or jury.

I have no doubt that if there were sufficient funds available to investigate the King and Kennedy murders eventually the conspiracy could be uncovered as it was in Watergate.

If I were working on a project such as this, I would direct a great deal of effort toward making connections between the wealthy oil people in the South and the Cubans rather than the Klan. If the Klan were used it would have been just that -- used. Since the Klan would have lacked the intelligence and sense necessary to carry out a successful conspiracy of this type, they would have bungled it badly.

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Furthermore, I would look for a continuing link between conspiracies running from about 1948 on through to the present, rather than isolated cases. I would not hesitate a moment in feeling that there would have been leaked information from certain levels in the FBI that would have assisted in the conspiracies.

Getting to the bottom of this matter would be a gigantic undertaking requiring facilities similar to what the Bureau had with a will to use them for the purpose of solving the problem. Most of this agent personnel would be as oblivious to the rightness or wrongness of certain steps in the conspiracy as Jim McCord was in the Watergate matter.

I know that from the vantage point of people outside of government it is hard to imagine that an organization like the Bureau or CIA can, over a period of years, mold rather intelligent men into zombies or robots; but that is exactly what happens when there are no checks or balances.

As I said previously, I have no doubt that Ray was involved in the killing of Dr. King but he was not alone and I hope you people are successful in getting him a new trial and getting to the bottom of the conspiracy.